



PRESS RELEASE

## ONE YEAR OF ELBPILHARMONIE

**BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY ON PUBLIC VIEWING DECK – MAYOR OF HAMBURG, MINISTER OF CULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF ELBPILHARMONIE LOOK BACK AT FIRST YEAR**

Hamburg, 4 November 2017. It turned into a major tourist attraction in record time: exactly a year ago, just a few days after construction of the Elbphilharmonie was completed, the Plaza on the roof of the former quayside warehouse was opened to the public, making the building accessible to everyone for the first time. One year later, the Elbphilharmonie has already welcomed 4,235,000 visitors. Today, many visitors celebrated the occasion in the presence of the Mayor of Hamburg, Olaf Scholz, the city's Minister of Culture and Media, Dr Carsten Brosda, and the General and Artistic Director of the Elbphilharmonie, Christoph Lieben-Seutter. In addition to the Elbphilharmonie itself, the focus was on all those guests whose birthday likewise falls on 4 November: a small ceremony was held with a raffle awarding the winners concert tickets, an overnight stay at the Westin Hotel in the Elbphilharmonie, an evening meal at the Störtebeker Restaurant and guided tours through the concert hall. Until 18:00 today, all Plaza visitors can enjoy the birthday event with live music, drinks and snacks as well as the spectacular 360° panorama of the city and the docks.

»THE LAST YEAR SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED HAMBURG «

**Mayor of Hamburg, Olaf Scholz:** »The last year significantly changed Hamburg. As of today, a total of 4,235,000 enthusiastic guests have visited the Elbphilharmonie. This proves that the Elbphilharmonie has won a firm place in the hearts of both Hamburg residents and visitors from farther afield. On this day, the first anniversary of the Elbphilharmonie, I want to express my special gratitude to the architects for creating not just an exceptional building, but also one that fits so perfectly into the local landscape that it's already impossible to imagine life in Hamburg without the Elbphilharmonie!«

**Hamburg's Minister for Culture & Media, Dr Carsten Brosda:** »With the Elbphilharmonie, culture has gained a permanent location at the heart of the city, and millions of people, Hamburg locals and visitors alike, want to experience this exceptional concert hall. It makes me happy to see just how many people not only wanted to visit the Plaza in recent months, but have also made the entire Elbphilharmonie their own. This immense interest in culture has made its mark on the way the city sees itself, so that Hamburg is rediscovering its status as a cultural centre.«

**Elbphilharmonie's General and Artistic Director, Christoph Lieben-Seutter:** »Although the inaugural concert didn't take place until January 2017, the Elbphilharmonie already took off at the beginning of November 2016, when the Plaza, the Tube, the hotel and the catering services were opened and the Elbphilharmonie team moved into its offices. Since then, the Elbphilharmonie has been the subject of a wave of enthusiasm from visitors both local and international, providing ample recognition for everyone who worked on the project for many years.«



At the anniversary ceremony today, some 170 birthday boys and girls and many other visitors gathered on the Plaza at 11:30. The group Beat'n Blow serenaded everyone whose birthday it was, with all the guests joining in the chorus. For the rest of the day, Trio Macchiato and the gypsy swing band Danube's Banks maintained the festive mood, and Hotel Louis C. Jacob donated a birthday cake for everyone to enjoy.

## **THE ELBPILHARMONIE PLAZA**

The Plaza makes the architecture of the Elbphilharmonie and the striking location of the concert hall accessible to the general public. It is a tourist attraction for visitors from all over the world, and a place that the population of Hamburg has made very much its own. That much was evident in the days following the opening in November 2016. In the meantime, 4,235,000 people have visited the Plaza – some 660,000 with one of the sought-after concert tickets, and about 62,000 as part of a guided tour through the Elbphilharmonie.

The Elbphilharmonie Plaza is open from 09:00 to 24:00 daily. The issue of Plaza tickets regulates the restricted capacity of the Plaza. Plaza tickets for a same-day visit are available free of charge from the Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center and at the main entrance area of the Elbphilharmonie (subject to availability). Advance booking is possible online at [www.elbphilharmonie.com](http://www.elbphilharmonie.com) and at the Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center for visits starting from one day in advance. A booking fee of €2.00 per ticket applies.

### **Press Contact:**

Tom R. Schulz, Elena Wätjen and Jan Reuter

Press and PR

phone: +49 40 357 666 258 / -249 / -275

[presse@elbphilharmonie.de](mailto:presse@elbphilharmonie.de)

[www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press)